

Piety Promoted

BY

FAITHFULNESS,

Manifested by several

TESTIMONIES

Concerning that true Servant of God

Ann Whitehead.

The Righteous shall be had in everlasting remembrance.

Printed in the Year, 1686

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THE HISTORY OF THE

ROYAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

FROM ITS INSTITUTION TO THE PRESENT TIME

IN TWO VOLUMES

THE FIRST VOLUME

CONTAINING THE HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY FROM ITS INSTITUTION TO THE YEAR 1700

Printed in the Strand, 1750.

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George Whitehead

HIS

Epistle and Account

Concerning

The Life and Death of

Ann Whitehead his dear Wife.

*To be Communicated to Friends,
especially those who know her in
Truth and Faithfulness*

MY dear and tender hearted
Friends, who truly love the
Name of the Lord, and the
precious and living Unity and Society
of his holy Spirit, whereunto he hath
called and gathered us by his invifible
Power; you are truly dear unto me
in that life which shall never die, and
in that love which is stronger then
A 2 Death,

Death, and therein my Soul truly loves all the Faithful in Christ Jesus, and such have been and are my Joy and Crown of rejoycing in him, and such can sympathize one with another, and bear one anothers Burdens in all Afflictions, Tryals and Sorrows which befall the Righteous in this short time of our Pilgrimage here on Earth. And my dear and tenderly beloved Friends, though my Spirit be greatly bowed down, and my Heart daily broken before the Lord under my present Exercise and Affliction, in parting with so dear and true a Companion, and faithful Servant of Christ and his Church, as my dear wife was well known to be; yet I feel secret peace and acceptance with the Lord, in an humble submission to his blessed Will, and in being reconciled to him in all his Ways and Dealings with us, under all such Tryals as he sees meet to bring upon us; as well knowing, that pre-
cious

Testimony for Ann Whitehead 5

cious to the Lord is the death of his Saints, and that the Lord who gives, he takes away at his pleasure, & none can hinder him, nor may we say to him *What dost thou?* But where Friends so nearly related have so long lived together, in that sincere love, unity, concord and tender heartedness one to another as we have done, 'tis a tryal to part, 'tis a day of exercise and heaviness, and requires some time to get thorow it, & 'tis the Lord alone that can effectually relieve comfort and bind up the broken hearted in such Cases and distressed Conditions. Yet we sorrow not as those that have no hope of Immortality, or of meeting together in immortal Glory and Felicity hereafter; for Life and Immortality is revealed and come to light in a good measure, and therein have all the faithful Members of the Church of the first Born some spiritual Sense and Union with the Spirits of all just Men and Women, who have

A 3

faithfully

faithfully served the Lord in their Generation, and finished their course with Joy ; and the real sense of the Sincerity, Love and Zeal of my dear Wife, for the Name of the Lord, lives and has deep impression upon my Heart, and upon the Hearts of many more. She truly loved Truth and Righteousness, and hated Wickedness and Deceit, Looseness and Pride : She was plain hearted and true, and of a right Mind & sound Judgment, and near and dear to the Lord ; and therefore I always valued her in Truth, & esteemed her as one whom God had effectually endued and qualified with Wisdom for her Service, which was required of her : She truly and tenderly considered the Poor, the Widows and Fatherless, and spared not her self to serve them that were in distress : She was faithful and kept her integrity to the end, and the Lord has taken her to himself, her Spirit is received into rest with God

Testimony for Ann Whitehead. 7

God in Christ: She has obtained that blessed end that Crowns all her Labours, Sufferings and Service. I cannot forget her lively Testimonies and Expressions upon her dying Bed, nor be clear without communicating something of the substance thereof unto you my dear and tender Friends, who knew and truly loved her as she did you; my Soul hath been, and still is deeply affected in the sense and feeling of that tender Love and Union that is among you, and was between you and her in her Life time, and with your tender heartedness towards her, and in remembrance of her Life, and Testimony, and Service for Truth she had among you; and therefore recommend unto you some of her living Testimonies, Expressions and Desires to Almighty God for his People, upon her dying Bed, and near her latter end, in testimony of her real and tender love in Christ Jesus unto Friends, as followeth,

8 *George Whitehead's*

Upon some discourse which a Friend had with *Ann Whitehead* of the great service which her Husband was in, and had done for suffering Friends, She answered, *The Lord has blessed and prospered my Husband in his Service, which is great satisfaction to me, and this I shall leave behind me, as that which is satisfaction to me, that I never did detain him one quarter of an hour out of the Lord's service, &c.*

On the 23d 5th Month 1686, in the presence of several Friends, she declared, as followeth, viz.

I would not have you too much concerned about me, as to my going hence, I am in the hand of the Lord, &c. (and with respect to Friends) I desire the God of Peace and Love may be among all Friends, and that they may be kept in Love and Peace, and Concord, unto which we were gathered in the Beginning, that the same that gathered us in the beginning may always preserve Friends in the spirit of Love, and of

Testimony for Ann Whitehead.

a sound Mind, [these words she expressed several times over] so as the God of Peace and Love may continue with them, and be with them to the end; and as for me, however the Lord shall please to dispose of me I am content in his will.

And Friends Visits she several times acknowledged, as their great kindness and love to her, though her weak Condition for some time could not bear much Company at once. She further declared after this manner, viz. *And as to my Husband, I have signified my mind as to what I would have done, and leave it to him to do as he sees meet, Hee'l do what's just and right. In our first coming together I had an Eye to the Lord, that I might do nothing but what might be according to his will, and that I might serve the Lord and his Church; and the Lord has answered my desire: and he has been a tender and true Husband to me, in all respects, &c. I have nothing desireable*

to me in this World save my Husband, but I am content & given up in the will of God, however he shall please to dispose of me, &c.

On the 24th 5th Month 86, being asked, how she was, she said, *I am well, I know nothing in this World, nor that to come, but all's well:* Implying, that all was well with her. A little after again expressing how well she was, and given up in the will of the Lord; and signified her unity with all faithful Friends, as being a living Member of the Body of Christ with them; and her great love to all Friends in the Truth; and though she signified that a sadness had come over her Spirit for two or three Weeks, inso-much that she was ready to Weep (as she said) when any Friends looked upon her, or spake to her, and that she had been something troubled at it, as not knowing any thing by her self as the reason thereof, but that she was naturally Pensive, (as she

Testimony for Ann Whitehead. 11

she said) being then clearly got over all that Sadness of Spirit, and over all her Affliction and Pain, insomuch that the more near she drew towards her end, the more chearful she was, her Spirit being greatly revived and comforted in the great love of God, and his tender mercies to her, whose mercies endure for ever to them that fear him.

This faithful Servant of our Lord Jesus Christ was in such Patience, such Contentedness, such Subjection of Spirit and holy resignation to the will of the Lord, that she appeared no ways burdened with the thoughts of Death, nor concerned, nor in the least troubled about it; Life immortal was over all. But still she was given up in the will of God, desiring others not to be concerned nor troubled about her, if the Lord pleased to take her away, saying, *Let me go away quietly.*

Upon the 25th 5th Month 1686,
when

12 George Whitehead's

when her antient and faithful Friend Mary Stout of Hartford came to visit her, towards evening, being asked, if she knew her, she said, *Yes, very well. 'tis Mary Stout, I have my Memory very well, and my Understanding is clear, though I am very Weak, but I am given up into the will of the Lord whether to Die or Live, for I have been faithful to him in what I knew both in Life and Death.* When she discerned any Friends troubled, she was concerned, & would say, *There's no cause for you to be troubled, or concerned, for I am well, and in peace, and have nothing to do, &c.* with several more words to the same purpose. Besides the many seasonable tender & Christian Exhortations and Counsel which on her dying Bed she gave in the love of God to particular Friends, (which I pray God may be truly remembered and practiced) and her many weighty and apt expressions in discourse on several occasions relating to Truth, &c.

On

Testimony for Ann Whitehead. 13

On the 26th 5th Month 86. in the evening, *Ann Whitehead* said to her Husband, &c. *The Lord is with me, I bless his Name, and I am well. It may be you are afraid I should be taken away, and if I be, the will of the Lord be done. Do not trouble your selves, nor make any great ado about me. But my dear, go to Bed, go to Rest; and if I should speak no more words to thee, thou knowest the everlasting love of God, &c.*

The next morning being the 27th 5th Month 1686, near three in the morning she quietly departed this Life, at *Briget Austil's*, at *Southstreet* in *Middlesex*, her Husband, Sister *Ann-Mary Freeman*, *Ann Cox*, *Mary Stout* and *Briget Austil* being present at her departure.

And now dear Friends, the great tenderneſs, gravity and ſolemnity among our tender and loving Friends accompanying her Body to the Burial on the 29th of the 5th Month 1686, did very deeply affect my Heart;
Friends

14 George Whitehead's, &c.
Friends love was felt beyond utterance.

Thus having given you (my dear Friends) this naked account, I tenderly recommend you all to the grace of God, to preserve you in the unity of his holy Spirit, faithful to serve out your Generation in the love of God, and blessed concord therein. I pray God keep you, comfort and supply you with all that's needful for you to the end of your days; and in the end crown all your labours of Love for his Names sake, with a Crown of Life and Glory that fades not away, Amen.

Your assured Faithful

Friend and Brother,

Written in the 5th
and 6th Months,
1686.

G. Whitehead.

Ann-Mary

Ann-Mary Freeman

HER

Testimony for her dear Sister

Ann Whitehead.

AS to my dear Sister *Ann Whitehead*, who was greatly beloved in the Lord, by all that knew her aright in the blessed Truth of God, for that she was always given up, as a true and faithful Member of his Church, to serve him in constant sincere Obedience, in her Generation and Day, on all accounts, as is well known, whose practice and manner of Life & Conversation, being not only Blameless, but of good Report and Savour amongst Men, from her Youth up; when I was but a Child she took me unto her care, and tenderly educated, and helped

56 Ann-Mary Freeman's

me many Years ; and though young in Years then, yet this I can testifie, that her desires and inclinations were always religiously bent to serve the Lord, both in Private and Publick, in that way of Worship her Understanding reached to, being so given up and devoted to his Service, that her Zeal for the same hath carried her through much hardship of Body, early and late ; and in due time the Lord answered the desires of her Soul, in visiting her with his Gospel Day, and powerful Testimony of the glorious Light thereof ; which she willingly imbraced, through the Lords goodness and love to her, and gave up to walk in the Light of the Living, and was a Sufferer for bearing Testimony to the Truth, and found great Peace and Satisfaction, and the Lords presence and blessings in her Faithfulness and Perseverance, and indeed, as a natural Sister, I can say, and that in true thankfulness to
God,

Testimony for Ann Whitehead. 17

God, I have had great cause to bless the Lord in her behalf, for she was a Treasure to me of great Value, and I can truly say I honoured her as my Mother, and she was not only a blessing to me, but also to my Fathers House, and the Memorial of her is precious to me, and will be blessed to Generations to come; and now as it hath pleased the Lord to take her hence, and I am deprived of so dear and near a Relation, I am, though in the bowed-downness of my Spirit, before him subjected and reconciled to his will, as knowing he giveth and taketh, and in his own time and pleasure, in whose hand the breath of all is: So she is gone to Rest, and I am fully satisfied her Soul is in Peace and Joy with the Lord eternally.

Much more might be said of her by me, but her daily Care and Service being so well known by Rich and Poor, Old and Young, I shall forbear enlarging, knowing her Re-

18 Ann-Mary Freeman's, &c.

ward is with her, and her Works follow her; for she did spend, and was spent to serve the Lord faithfully in Truth and Righteousness to the end of her days; and this I am a Witness of, though one of the meanest in Gods Vinyard, who am by Name

Ann-Mary Freeman.

*A Testimony for my dear and wel-be-
loved Friend Ann Whitehead,
whom I dearly loved in the Lord,
and that for her Works sake, and
for what the Lord had done for
her.*

I Had a true knowledg of her in
the blessed Truth, according to
my measure; she was a blessed
Instrument in the hand of the Lord;
about some twenty seven Years ago,
it was my lot to meet her at King-
ston, at the House of John Feilders,
where we had a Meeting on the first
day of the Week, and the Lord was
pleased to seaze so upon me, by his
everlasting power, through her Mi-
nisty, that the operation thereof
did so open my understanding, and
confirm me in the blessed Truth, that
I could set to my seal that it was the

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true

true and the living way, and the way wherein no Soul could ever be deceived; which day is never to be forgotten with me, amongst the many other days of the Lords tender Visitations to my poor Soul in the days of my Distress; and after I came more acquainted with this my dear Friend, seeing her Faithfulness and Uprightness in the *Church of God*; and her great care she had of the Servants of the Lord, it did incline my Heart more and more unto her, blessed be the Name of the Lord, who hath quickened and made alive unto himself, and hath made us near and dear one unto another, and hath knit and tyed, and bundled up, and hath united us together in that one Spirit, which is the bond of our Peace, where there is no Rent nor Division, but all one in Christ Jesus our Lord. And this is my Testimony further to her Ministry, that it was living and true, and she was one that never would go
beyond

Testimony for Ann Whitehead. 21

beyond the gift of the Spirit, but always would return into that blessed Power that gave it forth, which was very pretious to all that heard her; and I can truly say that my Soul hath been many a time truly refreshed by her, and in her, and my Heart hath been made right glad, for the which I bless and praise the Name of the Lord forever, who is worthy faith my Soul. She was a true and faithful Woman to the Lord, and to his Truth, and had a Testimony in her Heart against all things that would make a separation therein; and I can truly say, it was very hard for me to part from her, because of her worthiness, and the want of her in the Church and Family of God, and especially in our blessed Woman's Meetings, where she was made very servicable beyond many others, through the gift the Lord had given her; but considering the work is the Lords, and he is al sufficient to carry it on, to

raise up other Instruments in her place; the consideration thereof is a satisfaction to me, and many more of my dear Friends and Sisters in the Truth, and now she is ceast from her Labours and Sufferings, and is at rest with the Lord, who is her reward for all; but tho she is gone, her Spirit lives in the Hearts of the upright forever.

There is one remarkable thing brought to my mind, which was the last Testimony of this our dear and wel-beloved Friend *Ann Whitehead*, at a Meeting at the *Bull & Mouth*, a few Weeks before she departed this Life; first signifying to Friends how she came to the Meeting in much weakness, to be refreshed among us, but withal declared, how she was burdened to see the vanity of the minds of some professing the Truth; and so she went on Exhorting and Admonishing, and Testifying against *Pride* and *Vanity* which she saw among

Testimony for Ann Whitehead. 23
among some young People that came
among Friends.

So it is the desire of my Heart
to the Lord that this her Testimony
might not be forgotten, but have
a living impression upon the Spirits
of all those whom it concerns; and
in that love which desires the good
of all, I rest

*Your Friend and Sister in the
blessed Truth that sets free.*

Mary Elton.

B 4

Margaret

Margaret Meekings

HER

TESTIMONY

Concerning
Ann Whitehead.

IF any, surely I have cause to bring in my Testimony for my dear Friend *Ann Whitehead*, who was my antient Acquaintance, both before and since she knew the Truth, she being girded before by him she did not know, not to trust in earthly Riches, but did then with prudence, and much tenderness do her duty, far exceeding any I knew in that day, and since she has been convinced of the ever blessed Truth, which thorow many tryals and difficulties, and great exercises she has passed thorow to walk therein, a very useful

Testimony for Ann Whitehead. 25

useful Instrument, in variety of services, in the work of the Lord she hath been, by his assisting power, who endow'd her with much Wisdom and sound Knowledge, to give Counsel and Advice to the Simple, and much freeness to help the Helpless both with inward and outward Comforts, and when in the outward she lived well of her own, in the beginning, she then gave up all to suffer and serve the Truth; Oh her Value and many Vertues, I want words to express what she was to me, & to many more that truly knew her, so that her blessed footsteps I desire to walk in all my appointed time, that as she did, I may lay down my Head in Peace, who I am well satisfied is gathered into that bosom of Love where Joy and Felicity endures for evermore.

Margaret Meekings.

A TESTIMONY

Concerning
Our antient and dear Friend
Ann Whitehead.

THE one Eternal God, besides whom there is none, has in these last days manifested himself *Emanuel*, God with us, and in us, of a Truth, and all that into the new Covenant are gathered and there abide have his Teachings, and feel his Presence, and in the eating of the Bread that comes down from God discerns the Body, whereof Christ Jesus is head, and know the Communion and everlasting Union with God and all Saints; so when any are removed or fallen asleep, laying down their earthly Tabernacles, our fellowship in Spirit ceases not, nor do we
sorrow

Testimony for Ann Whitehead. 27

sorrow as those without hope, but can with Joy remember, and make mention of those that Lived and Dyed in the holy Faith, not speaking the praise of the Dead, but of the Living, as this our dear Sister *Ann Whitehead*, who wrought in God, and her Works follow her; I knew her enterance was at the straight Gate, and had no sooner the sight of the Pearl of great Price, but was willing to sell all for it, so put away that which was delightful to her, tho her own Wotks, & highly priced by others, yet least there should be an Idol in them, were thrown in the Fire by her; yea, all that she thought would stop her in her Enterance, or hinder her walking in the narrow Way, yea her Relations, whom she had manifested much kindness to, yet being contrary to Truth, she seperated from; and thus having cast off that which pressed down, she was not Idle, but testified of the Truth in City and Country

Country, as called of God, and she manifested, that she was in the true Faith, for it worked by Love, I am a Witness thereof, with many more. Before the Womens Meeting was settled she went visiting the young convinced both Rich, and Poor, Counseling and Exhorting as was needful, and supplying the Poor, and stirring up others thereto, and watching with those that were Sick, and comforting the Parents with their dying Children; yea helpful in many States, and had no Reward, nor looked for none, but what she found in well-doing, and I was one that was a partaker of her free Services, which was in and for the Truth-sake, daily stirring up others thereto, that I then said in my Heart, she was worthy to be an Example to all, but by me rather to be Admired then Imitated, for she was so Provident and Endustrious, that tho she spent her time in doing good, yet did not waste what she had, but did

Testimony for Ann Whitehead 29

did encrease it every way, having not only an open Heart, but a diligent Hand; but when she came to be a Wife, she was a blessing to her Husband and his Children, as he told me himself, admiring her with many Praises. And since the Womans Meeting came to be settled, in which her Services were very great, as in the Plague time, and after the Fire, Necessities being so great, and many, that there was much need of Wisdom and Parts to go through what was required of us, her care, diligence and pains, and readiness in Accounts, and disposing of it more then many, for her abillities therein exceeded most, tho many were willing to work with her, but she only in those things moved the great Wheel that caused the rest to follow, and she became a Mother to teach and provide for many, and some have, and may confess and call her Blessed, whose counsel and help raised some Families,
and

90 **Rebecca Travers** *her*
and preserv'd others from Ruin. O
let her own Works praise her; but
being in my Heart since her Removal,
in the Night and in the Day, I could
not be clear without making some
mention in plainness of that sound
Judgment & Wisdom, with Charity,
that our God had endued her withal,
that as she followed our Lord Jesus
Christ, we might be followers of her;
but neither I nor any can add unto
her, but what is brought to our re-
membrance of one so worthy to be
an Example, that the minds of some
may be stirred up to like Wisdom,
Enduſtry and Practice of thoſe Vir-
tues, in which ſhe did excel; for we
have many Daughters among us that
have done worthily, but in many
things ſhe exceeded us all.

Rebecca Travers.

Postscript

POSTSCRIPT.

WHen I heard her Husband, and some others had given forth a Testimony of her, I desired to have seen it, but did not see any until I had writ this of my own, for I being sensible of my old Age and decayed Memory, with my Incapacity, thought it would excuse me, if I said nothing, but as I put it from me, it encreased in my mind, the remembrance of her many worthy Works, and great Sufferings for the precious Truths sake, that if called to it, I could have writ a large Relation of her Actings and Sufferings for the Truths sake, since I knew her, which is about twenty eight Years, but let this little suffice to shew my good will, &c.

32 Rebecca Trebars, &c.

*A better name then that of Sons and
Daughters God does give,
To them that in his Light do purely
Live,
For they receive power to overcome all
Evil,
And so reign over Sin, Death and
Devil;
And she and all such, even of free
Grace,
Sit down with Christ within the
heavenly Place,
So they, and all that in our God do
Trust,
And have no Idol, but adore the
Just,
For its his Righteousness that maketh
pure,
And this is the Life that ever does
endure,
And into this Ocean of Life & endless
Love,
God gathers those that seek the things
above.*

R. T.

Mary

Mary Stout
 HER
 TESTIMONY
 FOR
 Ann Whitehead

AS concerning that true and faithful Servant of the Lord, our dear and wel-beloved Friend and Sister in the Truth *Ann Whitehead*, there is little need of much to be spoken in Character of her, she was so well known and read in the Hearts of most of the Faithful now in Beeing: But that the Generations to come may know what Worthies and Faithful Followers of the *Lamb* the Lord hath blessed this Age withal, who were as the first Fruits unto God in their Age, that

C

others

34 Mary Stout's Testimony

others also may tread in their steps, and walk as they walked ; therefore it is meet that something should be spoken on this wise, and left upon Record, for the memorial of the Just shall live forever.

I am very sensible that there are many dear Friends, especially in and about *London*, in whose Hearts the Lord had given her an honourable place, and would give her the right hand of Fellowship, whereupon every remembrance of her do greatly lament their loss, and are ready to say in their Hearts, with me, *Alas our dear Sister, who shall supply thy place ? but that we know him who is al-sufficient, and will fit and prepare Instruments to carry on his own Work, and is able also to pour forth a double portion of his good Spirit, (wherewith she was richly endued) upon those who persevere in wel-doing, and continue to the end, as she did.*

She was one of those that came
forth

Concerning Ann Whitehead. 35

forth early, even at the beginning and breaking forth of that glorious day, in these our last times, which many of the Righteous have longed to see, but have not seen it; and she received the Truth in the love of it, and did bear her part of the Burden and heat of the Day, and discharged her Place, and performed that service in the Body unto which she was called with Faithfulness, and was a true Servant unto the *Church of Christ*, of which she was a living Member, her Love and Care extended unto all, even from the highest to the lowest and weakest Member thereof, and the daily concerns of her Mind, and travel of her Spirit, and continual endeavours, were, that all things might be so managed, and performed, that the Lord might be honoured, and his People so preserved, as that his Truth might prosper and be advanced through and over all: Thus through her true practicing Religion

36 *Mary Stout's Testimony*

and constant diligence in the Work and Service of the Lord, she did arrive to such a state in Christianity, and was grown into such a clearness and soundness of Judgment, and was so impartial therein, that she answered the Witness of God, and gained estimation and true value in the Hearts of the Righteous.

I shall not descend into particulars to speak what I know of her, although, if I should, I could say much, having been anciently & intimately acquainted with her, even above thirty Years, and knew the frame of her Spirit, and the singleness and uprightness of her Heart to the Lord, to be such, that I must needs give unto her Memory its due, and say, that although I do know many Faithful and Worthy Women, who are dear and precious in the sight of the Lord, and may truly be called Mothers in *Israel*, yet I know none that did exceed her.

— When

Concerning Ann Whitehead. 37

When I look back, and call to mind the time of our first Convincement by the Spirit of Truth, and the uniting of our Hearts thereby unto the Lord, and one unto another, and how we, with many more dear Friends, have been preserved by and in the living sence & feeling of the invisible power of the Lord, in Unity with him, and one with another, even unto the day of her departure out of this World, (when several who came forth with us are fallen by the way) I say, the remembrance thereof is precious, and rejoyceth my Heart, even more then I have words to expresse.

And now, as to what was spoken by her when she came to her Death-Bed, I question not but those dear Friends which vvere about her, and vvere longer vwith her then I, have already given a more full and particular account then I am able to do; only thus much I must say, that her

38 *Mary Stout's Testimony, &c.*

patience and quietness of Mind, and
resignation of Spirit, together with
those heavenly expressions of that
true Peace and full satisfaction, and
assurance of the Love and Favour of
God at her Death, doth abundantly
evidence & confirm what is written
of her Life ; for she did certainly die
the Death of the Righteous, and her
latter End was like theirs, & the close
of her Days, and finishing of her
Course, doth demonstrate that she
had keep the Faith, and that thence-
forth there was laid up for her a
Crown of Righteousness.

Harford the 12th }
Day of the 8th }
Month 1686. }

Mary Stout.

Some

Some Account

OF

Ann V Whitehead's

Early Experience,
As written by her near thirty Years
Ago.

IN living Streams that Spring,
With Tears of Joy now can I Sing,
Of the Love and Peace that greets
When the upright hearted meets
In perfect Truth of living Power,
Which lasteth ever down to shower,
The blessing of the lasting Hill,
Into the pure Heart to fill,
With the fulness of his Grace,
Which beholds with open Face
The glory of the holy Spirit, [herit;
Which changeth man that life to in-

Now being come unto the Life,
 The Tree into the Waters of strife,
 That fell to sweeten them
 From their bitter sower Leven,
 By its own Fruit is known,
 True Joy & Peace from Heaven flown,
 Here he may take and freely Eat,
 For whom God doth prepare his Meat,
 Even his own Seed of Israel's Flock,
 Whose Off-spring is the faithful Flock,
 Which to his Voice alone gives ear,
 Whereby the Heart is kept so clear,
 A place only for the pure fear;
 The awe and dread of perfect sight
 Which shineth in eternal Light,
 There the Lamb's Kingdom is known,
 Where Christ the Lord hath only Throne,
 Ruling in Life and Spirit meek,
 Subjecting all under his Feet,
 The Earth & Air, & all dark Power,
 Which may arise to tempt an houer,
 And try if in the uprigh Heart
 It can find out any part,
 There to get in
 By Death or Sin,

Early Experiance.

41

*The Lamb to Wound and Slay,
On whom the Beast would make his Prey;
But waiting have the Patience tried,
The Faith that saves is soon espied,
Which safely keeps the little Flock,
That drinketh of the heavenly Rock,
From which the Water freely springs,
That giveth Life to all good things;
And here indeed,
There is no need,
Because of right,
All that abide i'th' Light,
May take and eat
There daily Meat,
And praises gives
To him that Lives
For evermore to Reign,
Where there's no Death nor Pain,
Glory, glory to the Highest,
Who brings to Peace and perfect Rest,*

These Verses, of dear *Ann's* own Writing, she gave me at her return from the Isle of *Wight*, where she had been travelling in the Service of Truth above twenty eight Years since, when she had been absent for some space of time.

M. S.

Grace

Grace Bathurst
HER
TESTIMONY

Concerning
Ann Whitehead.

Since it hath pleased the Lord, who is only Wise, by his divine Providence, to remove from us his faithful Servant *Ann Whitehead*, my Spirit hath been in Heaviness, and Sorrow hath filled my Heart many a time, upon the consideration of the great loss that I with many more shall have of her, as particulars, unto whom she hath been as a Mother in tender Advice and Counsel, and also the Church in general, whose Service she never declined, but in readiness of mind she gave up her self to serve the Lord and his People

Concerning Ann Whitehead. 43

People in uprightness, as I can bear my Testimony in Righteousness for her, having been Conversant with her ever since I knew the way of the Lord, as it is now revealed, in and through the Light and Spirit of Christ Jesus in the Heart, which discovers the works of Darkness, and all secret Iniquity; I say, ever since it pleased the Lord in the freeness of his Love and tender Mercy to make known his Truth unto me, it hath been my priviledg to be acquainted with this faithful Servant of the Lord, and I have been exercised with her in many Services relating to the Poor, where I have seen her great Care, Love and Charity extend to many poor helpless Families, as also her Wisdom and Justice in making a difference betwixt the Worthy and the Unworthy, and the honest hearted amongst them blessed the Lord for her; and as there was a care in her to supply their outward wants, she was always furnished

44 Grace Bathurst's Testimony

nished with a word of Exhortation, according as their States required, that they should have their dependency upon the Lord; so that from my own knowledg, her Exercises were many, and her Travels great for the prosperity of Truth; and I pray God that we who knew her, and are left behind, may follow her steps, as she followed Christ to the end of her days; and some of her last Words that she spoke to me, being near her end, was, *That she was satisfied with the will of the Lord, and did not desire any thing to be otherways then it was as to her, for she felt a Reward from the Lord; being filled with Joy, she prayed fervently for Friends Children, That the Lord would bless them, and that they might fear the Lord, and grow and walk in the Truth, and be preserved from the Spirit of Pride; which was the Substance of her last publick Testimony, as many may remember.*

Concerning Ann Whitehead 45
member. Much more I could say,
but this being only to ease my
Spirit and discharge my duty to
her whom I loved in the Truth.

The 4th of the
6th Month,
1686.

Grace Bathurst.

Mary

Mary VVoolley

HER

TSETIMONY

Concerning
Ann Whitehead.

Although I am satisfied there will be Testimonies many, by them more worthy then my self, concerning our dearly beloved Friend *Ann Whitehead*, yet can I not peaceably pacifie my own Heart and Spirit without giving in my Mite amongst the rest of my dear Friends and Sisters, whom I know have not buried her Works with her Body; my Testimony is, They shall stand upon Record to after Ages, for I know her savoury Life hath been a help to season many Sons and Daughters, and though it hath pleased the
Lord

Concerning Ann Whitehead. 47

Lord to gather her into everlasting Rest & Peace, & by Flesh to be seen no more, yet doth her Righteous Spirit, Life and Testimony live freshly amongst us, blessed be the Lord therefore: Oh, our dear *Ann* cannot be forgotten by us, who knew her, as she was a faithful Handmaid and Daughter of the Lord, and by us truly Valued; for the Lord was pleased to clothe her, with the Kings Daughter, all Glorious within; her righteous Heart loved no false Coverings, but still was labouring to keep Truth clear over all Deceit, always encouraging all, both Privately and Publickly, to serve the Truth in their day with singleness of Heart, and uprightness of Mind, and where-ever she found the Lord was dishonoured by any, and his Truth evil spoken of, she spared not her self, but with, and in his Wisdom she dealt with such, to bring them to a sight of their evil-doing; the Lord had surely a great

48 *Mary Woolley's Testimony*

great regard unto her for her sincerity of Heart in his Service, for I am one with many of the Lords People, that can testifie of her unwearied pains and care in the *Church of Christ*, like as *Priscilla* and *Aquilla*, whom *Paul* calls fellow helpers in the Gospel, so I know could many of the Lords Servants and Worthies call her in her day ; for the Lord was pleased to give large Gifts unto her; because her Heart was right in his sight, and her delight was to improve her Talent in her Lords Service, laying aside all things else for the sake of that ; a true Mother in *Israel* indeed, taking always due care for them that were in want of help, inwardly or outwardly ; to the simple & honest hearted she was truly tender, and was as Eyes to the Blind, and Legs to the Lame, teaching them, in the way of Life, to the strait path where she had walked and travelled without fainting by the way : I would not
leave

Concerning Ann Whitehead. 49

leave off without giving her her due in more things then these I have hinted, but not being willing to be too large, knowing that many were the Friends that loved her in her Life, & served according to their measure in the ever blessed Truth with her, that would have the same priviledge, in easing of their tender Hearts and broken Spirits as I have; her dear and worthy Husbands loss is great indeed, in his own particular, but that I know his will is resigned to the will of the Lord; I saw something of their pure Innocent parting, upon her dying Pillow, which I believe I shall not hastily forget; as she Lived she Died, an honourable esteem she had of him in her Life, so had she to the Last, with great desires that nothing upon her account might hinder his Service; of us that were about her, she took a dear and tender Farewel, with a kind acceptance of our Care and Love to her, which

50 *Mary Woolley's Testimony, &c.*
was but our reasonable Service and
Duty ; for in her day the Lord gave
her amongst us, and she was a blessed
Instrument ; and the Lord be good
unto us, and keep us in his holy fear,
that we may run the Race that he
hath set before us, and finish our
Course with Joy, as I am satisfied
she hath done ; Amen, Lord Jesus
Amen.

*From a Lover of the Truth,
and the Servants of it.*

*The 25th of the }
7th Month, }
1686.*

Mary Woolley.

Bridget

Bridget Ford
HER
TESTIMONY
Concerning
Ann Whitehead.

Finding my self not clear without casting in my Mite, by way of Testimony, for my dear esteemed and honoured Friend in the blessed Truth *Ann Whitehead*, whom the Lord endued with Wisdom, and made her a Mother in *Israel*; and I can say, I have seen her take the Weak by the hand, and lead them on in the work of the Lord, and she hath been comforted and refreshed when she felt any whom the Lord had made willing to put their hand to his Plow, & their shoulder to his Work; she hath rejoyced in Spirit and praised

52 *Bridget Ford's Testimon, &c.*

the Lord on their account, and like a nursing Mother did tender and cherish the Good and reprove the contrary; she often visited the Widow and Fatherless, and had compassion towards them, stirring up other holy Women thereunto, as also to clothe the Naked, feed the Hungry, and visit those that were in Prison; what shall I say? it was her delight to serve the Lord and his People, she was a faithful Labourer in the Vinyard of our God, and I am fully satisfied she hath finished that Work the Lord sent her to do, with Joy, and now it hath pleased him to gather her to himself, where she rests from her Labours, and her Works follow her, and is crowned with a Crown of Glory; everlasting Praises, Honour and Dominion be given to our God, henceforth and for evermore, *Amen.*

London, the 24th of the 7th Month, 1686. } *Bridget Ford.*
Charles

Charles Bathurst
 HIS
 TESTIMONY
 FOR
 Ann Whitehead.

AS for our dear Friend *A. W.*
 I have this short Testimony
 to bear concerning her. She
 was a Person whom the Lord had
 endued with singular Wisdom, and I
 have some time heard her say, *She*
sought the Lord from her Youth, and
followed the best of Men, and best of
Meanes, according to the dispensation
of those times.

But when the Lord was pleased
 to visit this Nation with the mani-
 festation of his glorious Truth,
 she was called in the Morning of
 that Day, and followed the Lord
 D 3 fully,

54 *Charles Bathurst's Testimony*

fully through many Sufferings and various Exercises, and still grew in the Truth; so that she arrived to a high pitch of divine Knowledg, whereby we may truly say, *Deborah* like, *She became a Mother in Israel*: Her Agency and Usefulness in the Church cannot be better demonstrated then by the many Tears that followed her to the Grave; and as she was filled with heavenly Wisdom, so she increased in humane also, and did not hide her Talent in a Napkin, but spent her self in the Service of the Truth, and was ready to communicate to any that stood in need of her grave Counsel, and of this I know there are many Witnesses; I can for my own part say, I have often had occasion to resort to her, & to receive Advice from her, in many matters of important weight, and always found her Advice very successful; and as she was thus serviceable to the Church in General, and to many
Members

Concerning Ann Whitehead 55

Members in Particular, so she was very helpful to the Poor, and a frequent visiter of distressed Families; I know not indeed wherein she was defective, except (it were) to her self, in spending her strength in continual service for the Truth, till Nature hastned to its Center: But I shall not further enlarge, being filled with sorrow for the loss of so worthy a Friend, but wish, that we that remain behind (may in our measure) follow her Footsteps, in her worthy Actions, knowing that now she hath received a Revvard of all her Labours, and is at rest vwith the Lord forever, to vvhom be returned praises by a Member of his Church and People.

The 1st. of the
6th, Month,
1686.

Charles Bathurst.

Bridget Austill

HER TESTIMONY

Concerning
Ann Whitehead.

A Short Testimony lives in my Heart, and is weighty upon my Spirit concerning our dear and worthy Friend, and dearly beloved of the Lord *Ann Whitehead*, of whose savory Life and sweet innocent Conversation I was a Witness for a considerable terme of Years, in all which time, since the Lord in his everlasting Mercy brought me into acquaintance with himself, and true nearness with his People, I beheld her Beauty and Comeliness in the Truth, and her inward Adorning, which

Concerning Ann Whitehead. 57

which was a meek and quiet Spirit, seasoned with Graces, and Vertue, and true Wisdom from above, which the Lord had largely indued her withal, whereby she was always furnished with a Word in season upon all Occasions, a true Mother in *Israel* indeed, still making it her greatest concern in her place, that all might be kept in right order in the *Church of Christ*, and nothing wanting, tenderly admonishing the young Ones to press forward in the way of Life and Peace, which might make for their everlasting happiness hereafter, and gently advising and exhorting the elder Women to walk as good examples, in all Comeliness in their places, that the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ might be adorned by them: These things have I many a time been an Ear Witness to, and my Soul refreshed thereby, & though but one of the least of the Lords
Servants

58 Bridget Aultill's Testimony

Servants that may give in their Testimonies, yet I could not vvith satisfaction pass by without setting Pen to Paper on this wise, having ever since the Lord made me sensible of her Worth, had an honourable esteem of her in my Heart, and my Soul loved her with faithful Love, and as she lived the Life of Truth, so she finished her Course with Joy I am satisfied, as being an Ear Witness of the many sweet & heavenly Expressions that passed from her often times on her Bed of Weakness, which I believe will remain weighty upon my Spirit; oh her free resignedness up to the will of the Lord, with true contentedness in her Condition, often saying, *She had done with all things in this Life, that she had nothing troubled her, but was at true Peace and Ease every way*; desiring us that were about her (whose Love and tender Bowels towards her she sensibly felt) *that we would*

Concerning Ann Whitehead. 59

would not be troubled, but give her up freely, saying to me, but a few hovers before she departed, That though she was in a dying Condition, yet it was a living Death, and that Weakness had seasoned her outward Man, but her Understanding and Sense was as perfect and clear as when she was in her perfect Health, and that she was in true Love and Charity with all: Oh, great is the loss of her in the Church of Christ, she whom the Lord had so furnished and fitted for his Service, which she faithfully performed to the last; I pray God grant that we which are left behind may according to our measures follow her righteous Example, and walk in faithfulness with God as she did in her day; my Heart is full at this very Moment, and my Spirit broken before the Lord in the remembrance of our dearly beloved Friend, my House being the place where she laid down her Head in
Peace

60 Bridget Austill's *Testimony, &c.*

Peace with the Lord ; and although
her Body be returned to its Center, yet
her Spirit and Life is truly felt and
witnessed in eternal union amongst
us. So having eased' my Spirit thus
far in this concern, I conclude, who
am known by Name

Bridget Austill.

Ruth

Ruth Crouch
 HER
 TESTIMONY
 FOR
 Ann Whitehead

COncerning my dear and entirely beloved Friend *Ann Whitehead*, whom it hath pleased God to remove out of this transitory and fading World, and from the Troubles & Exercises which attend it, and the Lord having yet continued me amongst the Living, and capable to say or write something in Commemoration of her, I account my self engaged to perform it; for as I had a delight to converse with her, and took pleasure to be in her Company when she Lived, so her Memory is sweet, and the favour of
 her

62 Ruth Crouch's Testimony

her Life remains in the frequent renewings thereof upon my Spirit, and the same shall continue amongst the Faithful through Ages; she was not to me a Stranger, for besides our unity and oneness in Spirit, I knew her personally from my Childhood, and many precious Oppertunities God afforded us, both Publick & Private, so that I had 'a full knowledg of her these thirty two Years, as my Capacity could retain, and can therefore with a good Conscience testifie on her behalf, that she was one whom God had, in an extraordinary manner, visited with the springings of his everlasting Day, and furnished her with Wisdom and Gifts beyond many others; she had a gift of Discerning, and so quick and ready in Comprehension, accompanied with soundness of Judgment, which she managed with a Wisdom and Gravity, even to admiration, all which rendered her honorable in the *Church of Christ*, where
her,

Concerning Ann Whitehead. 63

her Service was very great, and unto which she gave her self up to the utmost, of which Service and Labour, many, upon whom it is since fallen, may I believe testifie for her, and I in particular am a Witness on her behalf; she wanted not, but was largely extensive in her Charity for the Poor, she was always ready to contribute to the Necessitous, she was furnished with Counsel from God to many in Distress both inward and outward, which she readily gave, the same being often accompanied with a good Effect, *for she opened her Mouth with Wisdom, and in her Tongue was the Law of Kindness;* and in Meetings, altho she had excellency of Matter, and also of Delivery, by saying much in a few Words, for she used not many, neither was she forward or hasty to Speak, for I believe it was her care not to prevent or hinder the Brethren in their Testimony for God and his Truth, and
when

64 Ruth Crouch's Testimony

when any such thing happened it greatly grieved her, for she loved good order in the Church, and made it her business to promote and advance it, and was her self so subjected by a heavenly Wisdom, which instructed her in the right seasons to speak, or to with-hold, even as the same might be of Service in the Church; so that may it not be said, *Many Daughters have done Virtuously but she excelled us all:* Her constant and long continued care for the Church and Poor, of late (through providence) seemed harder and more difficult to her then formerly it had done, which caused her to desire that some other Women would take upon them some part of that which she had long travelled under, with some desire to with-draw a little by reason of some Weakness she found attending her outward Man, and accordingly she went into the Country,

Concernin; Ann Whitehead. 65
to Southgate, where her Weakness
encreasing she did in a few Weeks
finish her Course; and thither I
went to visit her, and was some-
times with her in her Sicknes,
and am sensible that the Lord was
with her in a wonderful manner,
and furnished her with Patience and
Content in her Condition, with a
Resignation and holy Submission to
his Will, in which frame she conti-
nued unto the end.

And now that the Lord, who is
the God of the Spirits of all Flesh,
would be pleased in Mercy to en-
crease amongst us the number of
such Labourers in his Harvest, which
is the desire of my Heart, and Prayer
to God; and that he who did in
loving kindness visit me early, even
in the Morning of this his blessed
Day, and hath preserved me until
now, grant an encrease daily of
his Wisdom and Counsel unto me,
E that

66 Ruth Crouch's Testimony, &c.

that I may serve him and his People in my Generation, and may follow the steps of this my dearly beloved Friend, who is gone before, and through Faith obtained a good Report, and her Works praise her in the Gate.

*To God Almighty be Glory and Honour
over all, for ever and ever, Amen.*

Ruth Crouch.

John

John Staplo

HIS TESTIMONY

Concerning

Ann Whitehead.

THE Remembrance of dear *A. W.* cannot be forgotten, she was my endeared Friend and whom I loved right well for the Truth's sake, in the enjoyment of whose Company I have been many a time Refreshed & Comforted, through the favour of Life in her Communication; she was endued with the Vertues of Truth, and seasoned with the Spirit thereof, which rendered her Converse very acceptable; great is the want of so dear a Friend, the Lord be pleased to raise up more such spirited Women, like minded, to

68 **John Staplo's Testimony**

serve Truth in their Generation ;
 in the early of her day she began to
 Fear, Love and Serve the Lord, and
 her Perseverance is known to many,
 my knowledge of her was about
 twenty six Years, and she was affecti-
 onately tender to me in the time of
 my first Convincement, when I was a
 Stranger to most Friends she wanted
 not in that day to give good Counsel,
 and godly Admonishion; and I have
 this satisfaction in my self, I was glad
 when I had an opportunity to serve
 her, and my Spirit hath been tender-
 ed in the consideration of what she
 hath been to the Lord, and done for
 the service of his Truth and People :
 I well remember, and believe shall
 not forget while I retain my Loye to
 Truth, what she said to me when I
 first visited her (with another Friend)
 as I did often in the time of her
 Weakness. which she resented kind-
 ly, being about six Miles from Lon-
 don, and said, *What do you come on*
purpose

Concerning Ann Whitehead. 69

purpose to see me, I take it as an effect of the Love of God, and I pray God Bless thy Children: Which tender and motherly Expressions came very near, and affected my Spirit, and there was an earning desire in me, *Oh that the Lord would please to spare thee, how glad should I be; 'twas more to me what she said at that time, then if I had had given me a great deal of this World, for that the Blessing of the Lord was, and is of value in my Eye above all outward Concerns.* Another time, when I went to see her, which was her last day save one in this World, her dear Sister, *Ann-Mary Freeman*, being present; *Remember me (said she) to all Friends, and I pray God Bless your Families, and if I never see thy Face more, 'tis well with me, God doth know my Integrity, and how I have been, and walked before him, and I am in Charity with all Friends, and be not over Careful or Troubled for me, but be*

70 **John Staplo's Testimony**

Retired and Quiet: My Heart was Comforted to hear her gracious Words, yet Sorrow attended at the thoughts of being deprived of so Dear and Antient a Friend, Diligent and Faithful Servant of the Lord, one that loved the Peace of the Church; & as there is a Record of *David's* mighty Men, in another Case, so may she be Remembered among the first of the honorable Women, for such were her attainments; indeed I want Words to express what I have at times felt (of her Worthiness) in my Spirit. One thing I have in memory of her, she always stood clear of taking any part with those that ever rose in opposition to the Truth, and the Servants of it, and had a Testimony against that Spirit in all kinds, that hath appeared to make Divisions amongst the Lord's People. Well she is gone to her Rest, and we that are left behind a little time to sojourn here, it remains for

Cocernning Ann Whitehead 71

us to be mindful of our latter Day,
and season of Change, for that it
may be perceived **Mortality** comes
on apace on this Generation; some
are concerned in the consideration of
how many dear and honest **Friends**
are lately taken from us, we had need
be girt up in Mind, and diligent in
Spirit, that we fall not short of doing
the Work of our Day, and while
we have Time, all to prize it.

John Staplo.

William

William Ingram

HIS TESTIMONY

FOR Ann Whitehead.

AS concerning our dear Friend *Ann Whitehead*, she received Truth at the first breaking forth of it among us, and was blessed of God, who endued her with many spiritual Gifts and Graces, whereby she became a Blessing to others, and the sweetness of that Life which flowed through her Earthen Vessel hath often Comforted and Refreshed God's People, who in the fence of that living Power, which plentifully appeared in her, have many times been broke into tenderness before the Lord, and in their Hearts have returned
Praise

Concerning Ann Whitehead. 73

Praise unto him on her behalf, who was knowvn to be Faithful and Sincere, a true Preacher of Righteousness in her Day; and although she outvvardly be taken from us, and her Body removed to its place, yet her Spirit Lives, and the memory of her Faithfulness, Exercise and Sufferings for Truth's sake, and Labour for the Prosperity thereof, continues amongst us, hath a deep impression on the Spirits of many, and vvill remain in the Churches of Christ, vvhere her Service vvvas manifest, as a matter of great Value and Esteem not to be forgotten; for indeed she vvvas a Mother in *Israel*, a Nursing Mother to many Children, begotten by the same vvord of Faith, vvwhich richly dvvelt in her, vvwhereby she vvvas strengthened vvith Might in the invyard Man, so that she vvvas strong in the Lord, and though many Archers shot at her; to Grieve & Wound her Life, yet her Bow always abode in Strength, and she

74 **William Ingham's Testimony**

She was covered by the heavenly Power of God, out of the Enemies reach, as one of the Lords hidden ones, in favour with him; and I am assured in my Spirit he hath preserved her unto his everlasting Kingdom of Rest and Peace, who was a sanctified Vessel unto him, fit for his use, and to bear his Name forth unto the World, and an eminent Example of Righteousness unto all, who by her chaste Conversation, coupled with Fear and diligent perseverance in the Truth, did adorn the Gospel of our Lord, being as a true Daughter of *Abraham*, adorned with those inward Ornaments of the hidden man of the Heart, as were the holy Women of old who trusted in God; and she has now finished her Course, fought the good Fight of Faith, and I am satisfied hath obtained a *Crown of Righteousness*, as a reward of her Travels and Labours, which is prepared, not only for her, but for all that love
the

Concerning Ann Whitehead. 75

the appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ, a more full Enjoyment of whom she had long been waiting in a preparation for, and as sensible of her Dissolution, or of her Departure being at hand, did often Exhort and Admonish Friends to concern themselves with that part of the Care which fell on her for the Church, and to diligence in the Lords Work and Businels, which she her self was mightily furnished to the performance of, through the Wisdom given her of God, and in the consideration of our great loss, I have secretly desired of the Lord, that he would please to pour out of his Spirit on some worthy Instruments to succeed her in his Work and Service.

This Testimony is part of what rested on my Spirit on behalf of our dear Friend Deceased, who I greatly valued in the Truth, having often felt the distillings and dropping down
of

76 **no. Ingram's Testimony, &c.**

of heavenly Dew, and refreshment from her Branch, which springing from the living Vine, brought forth **Fruits Savoury and Acceptable**, which my Soul did often delight in, and the savour of that virtuous life, which flowed through her Spirit, still is Consolation unto me, and the remembrance of it, I know, will yet be precious to all who are rightly sensible thereof.

William Ingram.

Mary

Mary Forster
HER
TESTIMONY
Concerning
Ann Whitehead.

AH, my Sister, my worthy Friend *Ann Whitehead*, who was highly favoured of the Lord, and endued with an excellent Spirit, to follow the Lord fully, and to be serviceable to him, his Truth and People; for the Lord did not only enlarge her Heart, but fill it full of his divine Vertue, and as a Scribe instructed in the Kingdom, she did bring forth of the Treasure which God had given her, things both New and Old; she fought the Lord in her Youth, and betimes tasted, and was made partaker of his heavenly Grace,
so

78 *Mary Forster's Testimony*

so that her Experience was great, and the fresh living Springs of Life did often run through her, to the refreshment of many; and in the spirit of true discerning she did divide the Word of God aright, to the *Poor, Penitent and Broken-Hearted, Peace, Mercy and Forgiveness*; but to the *Stubborn, Idle and Disobedient, Righteous Judgment*; and indeed such could not stand before her, yet could she bear the Burdens of the Weak, and Suffer with the Afflicted Ones; I have for about twenty seven Years known her, her ability and readiness to serve the Lord in his Church, and more especially in the affairs of the Poor, which she did in much Wisdom and Prudence, not sparing her Person or Substance, when either could be serviceable; indeed it was her Meat and Drink to do the Will & Work of God; she was a chearful Sufferer for the Name and Truth of our Lord Jesus Christ, and did encourage others so to do,

Concerning Ann Whitehead. 79

do, and to hold out to the end. What can I say ! her Worth is sufficiently known to the Children of the Day (especially those amongst us) and blessed be our God, although her Person be removed from us, yet that Spirit which made her amiable to us, in all her Services, is not departed, but remains with us, and hath its operation in many Sons and Daughters ; but she is gone, and we shall see her no more here ; and it hath often run through me (**whose Faith follow**) she had an inward Life and Conversation in Heaven, and whilst here on Earth was clothed upon with Life and Immortality, and was entered into the Rest of God ; and having run the Race, having fought the good Fight, having kept the Faith, she had the Crown of Life, & is now Crowned with Glory in that Mansion which Christ our Lord hath prepared for her,
and

So Mary Forster's Testimony, &c.
and not for her only, but for all them
who love his appearance, and in
their day diligently wait for his
coming to finish Transgression, and
to make an end of Sin, and to
bring in everlasting Righteousness,
So come Lord Jesus,

*The 10th of the
8th Month, }
1686.*

Mary Forster.

Sarah

A TESTIMONY concerning
Ann Whitehead.

AS the Lord alone is the Author of every good thing that a People or Person doth enjoy, which causeth them to differ in any excellent Vertue, so he is to have the Praise and Honour over all; yet in a living sence, which I feel upon my Spirit, there is a Testimony remains with me for my dear Friend & Sister in the blessed Truth *Ann Whitehead*, who was an honorable Woman in her Day, and very serviceable in the Churches in and about *London*, and in other parts of the World; where her hand of Love and motherly Instructions did reach, yea to the Isles a-far off; oh, what shall I say, or write, concerning my dear Friend, whose Body is laid in the Grave, but her worthy Acts yet liveth in the memory of

F

the

8. Sarah Plumley's Testimony

the Faithful, and time would fail to make mention of the many particulars in which her service was very weighty, but this I may say of her, that she was a faithful Steward of the manifold Gifts and Graces which she received from the hand of the Lord, and that in a plentiful manner; and she did not hide her Talents, but improved them daily for the benefit of the Churches of Christ, being always ready & fitted for every good Word and Work, and the fervency of her Spirit to serve the Lord & his People did often carry her above the weakness of her Body, who did attain to a good age, and now is gone to her rest in God, like a shock of Corn in its season: & though I with many more are often bowed in our Spirits, in the sense of the great want of her, yet I am satisfied her gain is great, and she is entered into everlasting Joy and Peace with the Lord God and the Lamb forever and evermore; and it is the
desire

Concerning Ann Whitehead. 83

desire of my Soul and Spi-rit to the Lord, that I with all the Handmaids of the Lord, in and about this City, and every where, may so attend upon the Lord in our several Places and Services, which we are or may be called to, that we may receive more and more of his Wisdom and Counsel, that according to the ability that God gives unto us, we may in some measure supply the place of our dear Friend, who is gone before us, that the great & wise God may be honored by us & through us, who is worthy of all Praise and living Obedience from me, and all that know him in Truth, both at this time and for evermore; Amen.

*Writ in the 8th Month, 2 S. Plumley.
the 3th Day, 1686.*

Ann Travers
 HER
 TESTIMONY
 Concerning
 Ann Whitehead.

I Having been well acquainted with our dear and wel-beloved Friend and Sister *Ann Whitehead*, could do no less then bring in my Testimony with the rest of my Sisters in the blessed Truth of God, I having known her above thirty Years; at my first Convincement she gave up her self to serve the *Church of Christ*, and abode faithful to the Truth, and was endued with heavenly Gifts, and was able to lend a hand to the Weak, for the Lord had endued her with a large measure of spiritual Wisdom, and in outward things

Concerning Ann Whitehead. 85
things also she was capable, and also
willing to help any in Distress, as for
the Sick her care was for them, and
for the Fatherless and the Widow,
she was as a Mother in care for them,
and the loss of her (in the *Church of
Christ*) is very great, and the Me-
morial of her will not be forgotten,
for her Works praise her, and will
be had in everlasting remembrance
with the Lord.

The 14th Day of
the 8th Month,
1686.

Ann Traders.

*A short Testimony to the good Life of
a worthy Matron in Israel, Ann
Whitehead.*

I Knew her six and twenty Years ago, after the breaking forth of that blessed day of God upon us, and she was made an early partaker of the day Star that arose in us, even in the Hearts of Thousands, both Sons and Daughters, of which this my dear Sister *Ann Whitehead* was one of the chosen Vessels, and by her Integrity and Faithfulness was fitted and prepared to and for her heavenly Masters Use and Service, and so by receiving her pure divine Sap and Virtue from the blessed divine Root, she grew up to be an honorable Vessel, thoroughly furnished unto every good Work she was called unto, yea a living Member of the true Body and Church of Christ, yea a living Branch of the true Vine, my Soul can
bear

Concerning Ann Whitehead 87

bear her witness, with many more who partaked of her Virtue, and saw her motherly Care in the Church, and for the good of all, and so can do no less in Truth and Righteousness, then let her Name be had in living Remembrance, and though her bodily presence be removed from us, yet her living Works praise her in the Gate; for with Wisdom, Prudence and godly Sincerity she was richly adorned, hating even the Garment spotted by the Flesh, and very severe she was against any that had defiled their Garments, for her Garment was made White in the Blood of the Lamb, and she was like one of those who had not defiled their Garments, *And they shall walk with me in White, for they are Worthy,* saith he that is Holy and True; and now, what shall I say, my Heart is deeply affected to think of our great loss, for a true Mother in *Israel* is gone, and taken away to inherit and possess that

88 *Lucretia Cook's Testimony, &c.*

Crown Immortal laid up for her, who loved his appearance, and was a faithful follower of the Lamb in the Regeneration, and is now sat down in the Kingdom of Glory with *Abraham, Isaac and Jacob*, and so we cannot Mourn as those without Hope, but in the will of my heavenly Father to learn subjection by all my Tryals and Exercises; & the desire of my Soul is, that we that are left behind may be faithful Followers of the footsteps of this our dear Sister, with her dear and honorable Companion, whose Paths, their just Paths have been, and are as a clear and bright shining Light shining forth more & more to the consoling & refreshing of my Soul, with very many more; and so that Spirit in her, unto which I was united, shall never dye, and in this we feel her amongst us, and are content in the will of the Lord.

Lucretia Cook.

This

*This Testimony lives in my Heart for
my wel-beloved and rightly esteemed
Friend Ann Whitehead.*

SHE was one that did truly fear God, by which she had learned a great degree of true Wisdom, and through the inspiration of Gods holy Spirit had attained to a good and sound Understanding, both of Spiritual and Natural things, through which she was made a Vessel of Honour, being one whom the Lord had fitly furnished to be of great use, and truly serviceable to and amongst the Household of Faith, through the virtue of that Life which the Lord often communicated through her, to and amongst them, insomuch that their inward & outward Life was often Refreshed, Comforted and Strengthened; yea I can say, and am obliged to acknowledge, that the Lord made her
Instrumental

90 Abigail's Testimony

Instrumental to ~~me~~ in both, for which I bless the Lord on her behalf, and that he hath made known and preserved me in the sence of that Righteous Principle which her Christian Practice did often reach to, and answer, as Face answereth Face in a Glass; and this is that indeed by which I know many with me can in their Spirits seal to, who were and are sharers of the Virtue of that indwelling Life which her Spirit was gathered into; and blessed be the Lord, doth my Soul say, in the lively sence of her Joy and endless Felicity, who did receive an hundered fold in this Life as an earnest of that Incorruptible Immortal Life, and is now entered into the full possession of it, being an Heir of that Promise, *Blessed are the Dead that Dye in the Lord*; she is ceased from her Labour, and her Works follow her.

And

And now alas ! what shall I say,
An Isralite is gone this day,
Who true and faithful was to God,
Against all Wickedness a Rod,
A tender Mother, yet indeed
Well furnished to help our need,
Well then bewail our loss may we,
So faithful, true and wise was she,
For often did she recommend
Us to the Lord, our lasting Friend,
Our loss indeed how shall we take,
What but her gain can it up make,
For sure, revived this may be,
One said to dye is gain to me,
Which gain transcends ! me thinks
I find

Her reward great : that's in my mind,
In Gospel work she had a share,
Great was her Labour and her Care
To bring more Children to that place,
Where God works in them by his Grace,
This I observ'd that still she aim'd,
The Truth of God might not be
blam'd,

Which

92 **Abigail Fisher's Testimony, &c.**
*Which faithful Labour I did find,
Was from a just and righteous mind,*

*And now I pray, O Lord, keep me,
Even all my days, faithful to thee,
That so an Isralite indeed,
I may be found of Isaacs Seed,
Of which right Seed was this my Friend,
I testifie, and so shall end.*

Abigail Fisher.

A TESTIMONY con-
cerning Ann Whitehead.

Dear Ann is gone! her Glass is
She's entred into Rest, (Run,
She lived here in Gods pure Fear,
Dy'd in him, and is Blest.

She serv'd the Lord in Faithfulness,
And when her end drew nigh
Told me her Work was finished,
She'd nought to do but Dye.

She did desire her Love to Friends
Remembred it might be,
In that which universal is,
The Truth (which maketh free.)

Great was her Zeal, great was her Care,
And Labour in her Day,
To serve and helpful be, to those
Were turn'd into Gods Way.

She

94 B. Antrobus's Testimony

She was a Vessel fitted and
Prepared by the Lord
To honour him, and lov'd all those
Who serv'd him with accord.

Oneness of Heart, oneness of Mind,
Amongst Gods Children dear,
She valued high, Exhorting all
To dwell in Gods pure Fear.

With Wisdom and Discerning great
The Lord did her endue,
Quickness of Sight and Sence she had
With Judgment Sound and True.

To me she was a trusty Friend
And good advice did give,
Her Memory to me is Sweet
In that where she did Live.

And certainly our loss is great
May many Children say,
A Mother that in Israel was
Is from us t'ane away.

But yet the Lord the Living God
Her Husband, will remain
To us a Father dear, and will
His Childrens Cause maintain.

'Gainst those that do his Work oppose;
In Males or Females: All
Are one in Christ, and those oppose
His Work, shall surely fall.

God will raise up and furnish more
For to supply her Place,
Vessels of honour sanctifi'd
And season'd by his Grace.

To carry on that blessed Work
Of Righteousness, which He
Will cause to spread and prosper still
To all Eternitie.

Benjamin InTRODUS.

A Short
TESTIMONY

Concerning our dear Friend
Ann Whitehead.

A Dear and Precious, Holy and Upright Woman was she in her day, loved Truth and Righteousness, and hated all Iniquity, she was a Mother in *Israel* indeed ; O how did she make it her great Care and Businels to serve the Lord, his Truth and his People, the Widow, Fatherless and Stranger ; she was a good Steward in the House of the Lord, her care was that none should suffer Want, that all things might be keep Sweet and Clean, and in good Order ; she was a Valiant Woman in her day, my Soul loved, her, my Life was knit unto her ; how did

Concerning Ann Whitehead 97

did she travel before the Flock in great Wisdom and Power of the Almighty : O when I consider the many blessed, sweet and heavenly opportunities that we have had together with her, in our retired waitings upon the Lord, I am ready to mourn apart for her, methinks I feel a miss of her more and more : O how did she wait at Wisdom's Gate to be endued with it, and when through the operation of the same divine Life and Power, opened in her, she spoke in Power, and demonstration of the Spirit, and great Wisdom, so that she was a Comfort, Refreshing and Edifying unto all, to the building of us up in our most holy Faith, so it oft rose in me, *That the Words of the Wise are as Apples of Gold in Pictures of Silver, and Wisdom is Justified of her Children* ; for so it was indeed, for as she Lived so she Dyed in universal Love to all, but more especially to the *Houſhold of Faith*, for whom

G

her

98 *Ann Mackett's Testimony, &c.*
her Prayers was Night and Day, that
they might be keep pure and clean,
without Spot or Wrinkle, or any such
thing: O she was an upright Woman
in her day, and the Lords powerful
presence was with her, from the be-
ginning unto the end, to the laying
down of her Head in Peace, and is at
rest with the Lord, and I am fully sa-
tisfied concerning it, and my Soul
blesses the Lord on her behalf, and
magnifies his Name, who is worthy
of all Praises, and Glory, and Honour
forever, *Amen; amen,*

Ann Mackett.

A TESTIMONY concerning Ann Whitehead.

Dear Friends,

THere was a concern upon me
in a short Testimony to give
in amongst you, with whom
my Soul hath Unity, concerning our
dear and tender Friend *Ann White-*
head; that she was a Woman whom
the Lord greatly honoured with a
large measure of his heavenly Wis-
dom and Power, and in that she
was made able to speak a word in sea-
son to the strengthening of the Weak
and the bowed down one, and many
living Testimonies she bore amongst
us in brokenness of Spirit, and in that
heart melting love of God, in which
I can truly say, my Soul hath often
been livingly refreshed, with the Souls
of many more. Friends my Heart is

100 Elizabeth Haynes's Testimony
overcome, and my Spirit bowed down
at this time, in a living fence of our
lois, which indeed is very great, the
Lord make it up unto us, in continu-
ing his presence amongst us, and in a
fence thereof strength will be admi-
nistred to do the VVork of the Lord
acceptably, for this was the Labour
and Travel of our dear and wel-be-
loved Friend, whilst she was amongst
us, *That all be done in Love, in the
blessed order of Truth,* and where any
thing hapned contrary, it became her
Burden, for she delighted in the pro-
sperity of Truth, and in them that
lived in it; this is my Testimony
(from a certain knowledg of her) in
my measure, though onc of the least
amongst you; yet as one whom the
Lord had reached unto in visiting my
Soul in his everlasting Love and
Power, in the day of my Affliction,
and hour of Temptation which my
Soul was under, then did the Lord
appear in his unlimited power for my
preservation,

Concerning Ann Whitehead. 101

preservation, and limited the power of *Sathan*, so that deliverance was witnessed to my Soul. And this Servant and Handmaid of the Lord travelled amongst us, whom he hath removed from amongst us, but to her great advantage, for she rests from her Labours and her Works follow her, the memorial of whom will Live forever in the Hearts of all the Faithful; O Lord that it may be thus with me, and with all thy whole Heritage is the cry of my Soul: This lay as a weight upon me, being eased, I desire to rest fully satisfied in the will of the Lord,

*London, 25th
of October
1686.*

*Elizabeth Haynes
Senior*

A short TESTIMONY for
Ann Whitehead.

Concerning dear *Ann Whitehead*,
and my truly loving Friend;
whom I have known above 20 Years,
I have this in my Heart to say, *That*
she was a Good Woman, fearing God,
and doing that which was right in his
sight; having a Tender Heart, and a
Charitable Mind; being a Help to the
Poor, and a Strength to the Weak; do-
ing always what she did for the Lord &
his blessed Truth-sake. Oh, how good
hath her Counsel been, and how sweet
and refreshing were her Words unto
me many a time, which begat great
Love in my Heart towards her, and a
true Sorrow for her removal, because
of the great loss and miss, I know
there will be of her among Friends.
Well, but the will of the Lord must
be submitted to, and we therewith
contented,

Concerning Ann Whitehead. 103

contented, for she is at Rest and Peace
with our God, there to abide in ever-
lasting Happiness forever and ever-
more.

*Dear Ann is gone unto her Rest,
Of Women sure, one of the Best ;
True Wisdom had she from above,
Filled with Vertue and true Love ;
So that to us her loss was such,
Caus'd Tears and Sorrow very much :
But since it doth to us befall,
And God did to himself her call ;
Let us beg of him that he will,
Our Women with his Spirit fill,
And make them able to withstand
Truth's Opposers on ev'ry hand,
Till they Gods Work have finished,
And all in Peace laid down the head,
And Crown'd with Glory in Heaven,
So let it be, O Lord, Amen.*

Jane Sowle.

A TESTIMONY concerning
Ann Whitehead.

COncerning our dear and wel-
beloved Friend *Ann White-*
head, whom I truly Loved
and Honoured in the Lord for the
Truth's sake. This Testimony arises
in my Heart: It was her faithfulness
to the Truth that made her truly ho-
nourable, that is her Crown, and is
now set upon her Head for evermore:
She having set her House in order,
the Lord hath gathered her, by his
gentle hand, into Rest and Peace,
where her Reward is sure with him,
and through her Faith in Christ Jesus,
and her steadfastness in the Truth, she
hath obtained a good Report in her
Day and Generation: She truly Lo-
ved, Feared and Served the true and
living God, being made subject to
the Truth through the mighty
Power

Concerning Ann Whitehead. 105

Power of God: She was adorned and furnished by the Truth with *a good Understanding, true Wisdom and sound Judgment*, to discern between things that differ, whereby she was made a very serviceable Member in the *Church of Christ*, and a Mother in *Israel* to many Children, ministering the Word in due season, suitable to every State and Condition; and I can truly say, we have been often Refreshed and Comforted together in the Lord, and one in another in our Women's Meetings, where the Weak and Feeble have been strengthened, and that which was heady & high abased and brought low, and Truth over all exalted, and we as Members, of that one Body, of which Christ Jesus our Lord is the Head, build up together a spiritual Household unto God: And this was the Labour & Travel of our dear Friend and faithful Labourer in the Work & Service of the Lord, who was therein drawn forth to visit us at
our

106 *Susanna Dew's Testimony*

our Quarterly-Meeting, at the *Bull*
and Mouth the 5th of 5th Month 86.
 and it was the last publick Meeting
 she was at amongst us, for she was
 then weak in Body, yet she was strong
 in the Lord, and in the power of his
 might was she enabled to bear a
 faithful Testimony for the Truth a-
 gainst all such that made a profession
 of it, and was high and lifted up a-
 bove the pure fear of the Lord, and
 that measure of Truth which many
 had received and been partakers of in
 the beginning; also signifying of what
 little value all the *Glory, Pride, vain*
Fashions, Customs and Friendships of
 this World are, and how they all
 pass away, and will not stand any
 one in stead in the day of account,
 which will certainly overtake all;
 therefore she exhorted and laboured
 in the Word of Truth, that all might
 be warned against, & awakened out of
 all those things which grieves the good
 Spirit of the Lord, & are contrary to
 the

Concerning Ann Whitehead. 10

the pure mind & will of God, that so your Souls might live to God through your obedience to the Truth, and the operation of his Power (which works in them that believe) to do those things which are acceptable in his Sight, that God over all may be glorified, for he alone is worthy of all Glory and Praise for evermore. Oh, that we which yet remain, may be found following the footsteps of this our dear Friend, as she followed Christ, leaving us a good example in all manner of god-like Conversation: She was a pattern of Wisdom and Sobriety, and her Integrity to God was manifested through her labour of Love, and faithful Service for the Truth's-sake. In her Life time she sought the good of all, and at her Death manifested her Love the same to all, being sweetly kept in a living Injoyment of true Peace and Rest with the Lord, her Love flowed forth unto all the whole Flock and Family

108 **Susanna Detm's Testimony**

Family of God, desiring that we might all live in Love, *And the God of Peace* (said she) *be with you, preserve you and keep you all in true Love Peace and Unity with himself and one with another.* And in this peaceable frame of Spirit, I am satisfied, that this our dear Friend resigned and gave up to the will of the Lord, as in her Life time, so at her Death, having fought the good Fight, finished her Course, and kept the Faith, and is at Rest with the Lord, and her Memory is blest forever.

Susanna Detm.

And

ANd I was truely glad I had an opportunity to visit her in the time of her weakness, for I was Comforted and well refreshed with the rest of my Friends then present, in the feeling, and injoyment of that Love & Life, which still lives and will remain with all the upright in Heart. And altho her Body be removed from us; her memory lives in that which is beyond words. So unto that pure everlasting Power (which works in us and for us both to will and to do according to his good pleasure) be all Glory and Honour, with Everlasting pure holy Prayses it ascends and is ascribed and given unto him that lives for ever and for evermore.

S. D.

A
TESTIMONY
FOR
Ann whitehead.

A Living Testimony springeth in my Heart, concerning that worthy Friend and Sister, yea Mother, for so she was to many, *Ann Whitehead*, who was endued with much Wisdom from above, and one of great Courage, with godly Zeal in the Work and Service of the Lord, and a godly care she had over the Flock and Family of the Lord; oh, often would she come forth in our Womens-Meeting with a living Testimony, which hath much refreshed my Heart and Soul, and I doubt not but many more can say the same with me, stirring up the pure Mind in many, and often did exhort all to see how, and in what they were gathered; often did the Spirit of God move on her Heart, to put all in mind, that

Concerning Ann Whitehead. 111

that they might have their Minds exercised in their own Gift; oh the great care she had to exalt the Name and Power of the Lord over all, and that all might come to feel the Power to administer Life to their Souls: Blessed be the Lord, and Magnified be his pure and holy Name! I have often felt him in the midst of our Assemblies as an overflowing Fountain, and that our own have overflowed, to the praise and glory of his Name; this is not to adore the Creature, but that as she was a faithful Follower of our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, so we may be found walking in her steps; that as I am fully satisfied this dear and wel-beloved one hath finished her Course, and laid down her Head in perfect Peace with the Lord, and is entered into her Rest, it may be so with us: Dear Ann is fallen asleep, yet doth her memorial live, and will be had in everlasting remembrance. So dear Friends, let us be diligent in our places, and be found good Examples, as dear Ann was in her Day, being nursing Mothers, and Patterns of Gravity to those Young Ones that are coming up, that they may have cause to praise the Lord on our behalfs, as a remnant hath on behalf of her that is gone,
and

112 *M. Plumsted's Testimony, &c.*

and we must follow, the Lord knows how soon; therefore dear and wel-beloved, let us in all things be careful, that we set no bad example to any, neither in our Habit or Behaviour; I have seen much in my time, since the Lord convinced me of his ever blessed Truth, that lawful things have not been expedient in Apparel, as well as other things: So dear Friends, this is the true desire of my Heart and Soul, and the breathing of my Spirit, that we may walk so circumspect in our Day, Age and Generation, so that when our Change cometh, we may lay down our Heads in Peace also, to the Praise and Glory of the great Name of the Lord our God, who is worthy of all Honour, Glory and living Thanksgiving, not only at this time, but henceforth and for evermore, *Amen.*

Mary Plumsted,

Many

MAny are the Testimonies concerning our dear Friend and Sister *Ann Whitehead*, who was a Mother in *Israel*; and indeed our loss was her gain, for she is entered into her Rest, which the Lord hath prepared for those that love his Appearance, and are obedient to his Requirings, and have followed him through many Tribulations as our dear Friend did? In the beginning when God's Truth did first appear in this City, then she became honourable therein, by her cleaving thereto in her Youth, and hath continued therein to her old Age, and hath been honoured above many; and now my dear Friends, that we may all follow her example is my desire, that am your Sister in the holy Truth.

Elizabeth Camfield

A
TESTIMONY
FOR
Ann Whitehead.

Serious Reader

IT cannot be sufficiently lamented that we live in an Age that abounds with profane blasphemous Atheists, sprung out of various sorts of Apostates from the way of Truth, whose unclean Hearts are filled with envy against such as have followed God faithfully in their day, & their Mouths with mocking and railing Accusations, endeavouring to bury their Names, Testimony and Sufferings for God: It is meet and needful, in such a time, that there should be some to speak for God, and the way of Truth,

Concerning Ann Whitehead. 115

Truth, and for those that have faithfully served him in their Generation, and are fallen asleep, for so the holy Apostle spake of *David*: Thus the Spirit of God in ages past hath commemorated the Names and Services of his faithful Followers, and are not their Names and Services this day fresh and sweet amongst us, as precious Odour, even from righteous *Abel* to this day? Is not the holy Apostles Catalogue and cloud of Witnesses, mentioned in the *Hebrews*, of living and fresh savour and edification in the Church in this our day? observe how frequently in all his Epistles he commemorates the Names and Services of the eminently faithful, and that the Disciples shewed *Dorcas's* good Works; and holy *John* commemorates the Names of those that loved the Truth, which justifieth the same practice now, and reproveth the Atheistical Cavellers of our day, that being secretly convicted

in their Consciences of Apostacy from God, become deriders of the Names and Services of the *Josbas* and *Calebs* in our age, upon whom the Apostle hath eternized a just motto, *That they please not God*, and are contrary to all good men. Dear Friends, all feel in your day and time, that comfort, that is, in that God hath set apart the godly for himself; these are called his *Jewels*, and God saith in *Malachy*, *They shall be mine*: My Heart is inditing good matter amongst the Lovers of *Zion*, that favour her *Dust*, and takes pleasure in her *Stones*, they shall prosper indeed that love her. And I feel constraining in my Spirit to cast in my Mite of Testimony amongst others, concerning our dear Friend *Ann Whitehead*, of whom I had large Testimony, that the Spirit of God plentifully dwelt in her, branching forth it self in many eminent Services for God, so that she may well be

Concerning Ann Whitehead. 117

be commemorated as a Mother in Israel, that was filled with Zeal for the building of Gods House; the Apostle speaks of some that were the first Fruits of Achaia, commemorates their Services, and exhorts the Church to acknowledge such: This godly Woman was of the first Fruits of London in this our day, who hath left a sweet Testimony in the Hearts of Thousands, that she sought not her own things, but the things of Christ; my own experience of Gods honouring her with his Soul consoling presence was large in many Years holy Communion in our retired Meetings, where God often filled her Vessel with the Water of Life, to the reaching and refreshing of many Souls: That day must never be forgot, when her Testimony was indeed as the dew and small Rain to the tender Herbs; so that I was made to say, where is the Scribe? where is the Wise and Disputers

118 **C. Blamsted** Testimony, &c.

of this V World, meeting with him
who is the Glory of Israel, whom
my Soul sought after, through Instru-
ments dispiled by this V World, a-
mongst whom, oh *Ann*, thou art num-
bered, and shalt everlastingly shine
as a Star in the hand of him that
sitteth upon the Throne; and though
as to the mortal thou art removed,
yet art present in the general Assem-
bly and Church of the *First-Born*,
who having waish their Robes in
the Blood of the Lamb, with Harps
in their Hands, Sing the Song of
Moses and of the Lamb, *Great and
Marvelous are thy Works Lord God
Almighty, Just and True are thy
Ways, thou King of Saints.*

The 15th of the 8th Month 1688
Clement Blamsted

indeed as the dew and small rain
to the tender Herbs; so that I was
made to say, where is the Scribe?
A
There is the Witte and Discreet

ready or joined in general Meetings
and to the same, the

A general TESTIMONY for
Ann whitehead.

DEAR Friends in the blessed
Truth, to whom this Treas-
ure may come, we tender-
ly salute you in the Lord, and fur-
ther declare and signifie unto you,
that though these foregoing Christian
Testimonies were written apart by
particular Friends, as they felt a ne-
cessity come upon them, in commem-
oration of the Christian Conversa-
tion, holy Example, weighty Ser-
vice and blessed End of our truly be-
loved and faithful Sister in Christ *Ann
Whitehead*, yet the said foregoing
Testimonies are so concurrent in
themselves, bespaking one and the
same spiritual Sense and Judgment
in many Witnesses, and so clearly
agreeing with the general Sense,
Knowledg & Experience of our Wo-

mens-Meeting in London, to whom the Faithfulness, Labour of Love, Care and Diligence of our said Sister was well known, that our said Meeting doth unanimously own and recommend the same to all our faithful Friends and Sisters in Christ, of other Womens Meetings, in this and other Nations. Though God is our record, tis not to admire the Person or exalt the Creature above its place, that these things are written & recommended, but to magnifie the Power and Goodness of the Lord our God, and his divine Grace and Gifts in his Creature, as manifest in this his day, who worketh both immediately and instrumentally, as he teacheth and instructeth, both by himself alone and by his faithful Witneses, according to his good pleasure. The Holy One in these his VVays and VVorks is not to be limitted, but we ought to admire his great Wisdom, to consider his great Kindness to us

Concerning Ann Whitehead. 121

in all his Ways, and daily to pray unto him, who is the Father of Spirits, that we may both daily feel his immediate Counsel in our Hearts, & follow their Faith & Christian Example of Love, Peace and Concord, who have thereby left a good Report, and such lively Impressions upon the Hearts of a Remnant, as may not be raced out, nor easily forgotten. God Almighty preserve us all faithful in his Work and Service, and in his pure Love, blessed Unity, and heavenly Order of his holy Spirit of Life, in Christ Jesus our Lord, unto the end of our Days, Amen.

Mary Stott,
Hannah Tayler,
Martha Hull,
Marrabilla Farmborough,
Priscilla Hart,
Agnes Pool,
Patience Asbfield,
Constant Esbridge,

Sarah

Sarah Milman,

Sarah Ellis,

Elizabeth Man,

Mary Mardin,

Mary Birkhead,

Martha Mathews,

Sarah Mead,

Ann Paxton,

Margaret Drinkwell,

Elizabeth Fullove,

Hester Bryan,

Elizabeth Stokes,

Sarah Edge,

Mary Whitpane,

Mary Griffen,

Grace Jenner,

Rebecca Zachary,

Elizabeth Vanghron,

Mary Sanders,

Grace Staplo,

Elizabeth Thorpe,

Joan Wheeler,

Joan Perkins,

Martha Parker,

Elizabeth Cobham,

Mary.

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Mary Howell,
Elizabeth Gibson,
Susanna Ingram,
Abigail Hartow,
Mary Antrobuss,
Grace Pinder,
Abigail Maylin,
Elizabeth Collet,
Mary Sims,
Mary Waff,
Ann Cox,
Mary Laity,
Elizabeth Brassey,
Ann Eccleston,
Elizabeth Heywood,
Elizabeth Gouldney,
Katherine Clarke,
Margaret Kintch,
Elizabeth Moss,
Dorothy Langhorn,
Margaret Hallowsfeild,
Mary Oades,
Margery Feild,
Issabel Tally,
Joan Dennis,

Mary

Mary Jennings,
Elizabeth Baker,
Mary Quare,
Elizabeth Newman,
Ann Browne,
Hannah Perrie,
Ellen Petrem,
Elizabeth Cullum,
Ann Hubbard,
Elizabeth Pate,
Mary Willson,
Ann Cooper,
Willmot Smith,
Elizabeth Smith,
Elizabeth Grice,
Elizabeth Skinner,
Susanna Anthony,
Ann Phillips,
Sarah Clarke,
Elizabeth Cartwright,
Hannah Scotting.

